Please **amend** the claims as follows:

7. (Amended) A method for detecting a nucleic acid in a biological sample, wherein the nucleic acid encodes a peptide capable of specifically binding to a Lym-1 antibody, the method comprising the following steps, in the following order:

(a) contacting the sample with an oligonucleotide primer pair capable of amplifying a subsequence of an MHC nucleic acid, which subsequence encodes a polypeptide having a sequence comprising R_1 - R_2 - R_3 - R_4 - R_5 - R_6 - R_7 - R_8 - R_9 - R_{10} - R_{11} - R_{12} - R_{13} - R_{14} - R_{15} - R_{16}, wherein R_1 is Gln, Lys, or Arg; R_2 is Arg; R_3 and R_4 are members independently selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; R_5 is Ala, Glu, Asp, Val, Leu or Ile; R_6 and R_7 are members independently selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; R_8 is Thr; R_9, R_{10}, R_{11}, R_{12}, R_{13}, R_{14}, and R_{15} are members independently selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; and, R_{16} is Val (SEQ ID NO:2),

(b) amplifying the nucleic acid; and

(c) detecting the amplified nucleic acid.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the MHC nucleic acid is HLA-DR 10.

15. (Amended) A kit for detecting a nucleic acid in a biological sample, wherein the nucleic acid encodes a peptide capable of specifically binding to a Lym-1 antibody, comprising an oligonucleotide primer pair capable of amplifying a subsequence of an MHC gene or gene product, which subsequence encodes a polypeptide comprising a peptide having a sequence comprising R_1 - R_2 - R_3 - R_4 - R_5 - R_6 - R_7 - R_8 - R_9 - R_{10} - R_{11} - R_{12} - R_{13} - R_{14} - R_{15} - R_{16}, wherein R_1 is Gln, Lys, or Arg; R_2 is Arg; R_3 and R_4 are members independently selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; R_5 is Ala, Glu, Asp, Val, Leu or Ile; R_6 and R_7 are members independently selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; R_8 is Thr; R_9, R_{10}, R_{11}, R_{12}, R_{13}, R_{14}, and R_{15} are members

independently selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; and, R_{16} is Val (SEQ ID NO:2).

D2

16. (Amended) The kit of claim 15, wherein the MHC nucleic acid is HLA-DR 10.

Please **add** the following new claims:

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35. (New) A method for detecting a nucleic acid in a biological sample, wherein the nucleic acid encodes a peptide capable of specifically binding to a Lym-1 antibody, the method comprising the following steps:

(a) contacting the sample with an oligonucleotide primer pair capable of amplifying a subsequence of an MHC nucleic acid, which subsequence encodes a polypeptide having a sequence consisting essentially of R_1 - R_2 - R_3 - R_4 - R_5 - R_6 - R_7 - R_8 - R_9 - R_{10} - R_{11} - R_{12} - R_{13} - R_{14} - R_{15} - R_{16}, wherein R_1 is Gln, Lys, or Arg; R_2 is Arg; R_3 and R_4 are members independently selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; R_5 is Ala, Glu, Asp, Val, Leu or Ile; R_6 and R_7 are members independently selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; R_8 is Thr; R_9, R_{10}, R_{11}, R_{12}, R_{13}, R_{14}, and R_{15} are members independently selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; and, R_{16} is Val (SEQ ID NO:2),

D3

(b) amplifying the nucleic acid; and

(c) detecting the amplified nucleic acid.

36. (New) A method of claim 35, wherein the MHC nucleic acid is HLA-DR 10.

37. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the subsequence encodes a peptide wherein R_1 is Gln, Lys, or Arg; R_2 is Arg; R_3 is Arg; R_4 is Ala; R_5 is Ala; R_6 is Val; R_7 is Asp; R_8 is Thr; R_9 is Tyr; R_{10} is Cys; R_{11} is Arg; R_{12} is His; R_{13} is Asn; R_{14} is Tyr; R_{15} is Gly, and R_{16} is Val (SEQ ID NO:2).

38. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the biological sample comprises a B cell.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the B cell is a B lymphocytic non-Hodgkin's lymphoma cell.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the non-Hodgkin's lymphoma cell is selected from the group consisting of a B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma (B-CCL/SLL) cell, a lymphoplasmacytoid lymphoma (LPL) cell, a follicular lymphoma (FL) cell, a mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue lymphoma (MALTL) cell, a splenic lymphoma with villous lymphocytes (SLVL) cell and a mantle cell lymphoma cell.

41. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the biological sample is a body fluid sample or a biopsy sample.

42 (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the body fluid sample is a blood sample.

43. (New) A kit for detecting a nucleic acid in a biological sample, wherein the nucleic acid encodes a peptide capable of specifically binding to a Lym-1 antibody, comprising an oligonucleotide primer pair capable of amplifying a subsequence of an MHC gene or gene product, which subsequence encodes a polypeptide consisting essentially of a sequence comprising R_1 - R_2 - R_3 - R_4 - R_5 - R_6 - R_7 - R_8 - R_9 - R_{10} - R_{11} - R_{12} - R_{13} - R_{14} - R_{15} - R_{16}, wherein R_1 is Gln, Lys, or Arg; R_2 is Arg; R_3 and R_4 are members independently selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; R_5 is Ala, Glu, Asp, Val, Leu or Ile; R_6 and R_7 are members independently selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; R_8 is Thr; R_9, R_{10}, R_{11}, R_{12}, R_{13}, R_{14}, and R_{15} are members

independently selected from the group consisting of all amino acids; and, R_{16} is Val (SEQ ID NO:2).

D3

44. (New) The kit of claim 43, wherein the MHC nucleic acid is HLA-DR 10.

45. (New) The kit of claim 43, wherein R_1 is Gln, Lys, or Arg; R_2 is Arg; R_3 is Arg; R_4 is Ala; R_5 is Ala; R_6 is Val; R_7 is Asp; R_8 is Thr; R_9 is Tyr; R_{10} is Cys; R_{11} is Arg; R_{12} is His; R_{13} is Asn; R_{14} is Tyr; R_{15} is Gly, and R_{16} is Val (SEQ ID NO:2).

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 7-18 and 35-45 are pending and under examination, with claims 19-24 having been cancelled herein and claims 35-45 added.